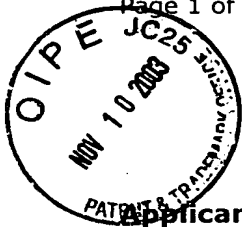


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Applicant: ESAB AB  
Serial Number: 09/402185  
Attorney Docket: 5746  
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PATENT

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**Applicant:** ESAB AB

**Serial Number:** 09/402185

**Filed:** 9/28/99

**For:** METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR FRICTION STIR WELDING

**Attorney Docket Number:** 5746

**RESPONSE TO OFFICIAL ACTION**  
**AND**  
**PETITION FOR AN EXTENSION OF TIME**

Hon. Commissioner of  
Patents and Trademarks  
Alexandria, VA 22313

November 6, 2003

Sir:

This communication is responsive to the Office Action mailed May 6, 2003 having a shortened statutory period that expired on August 6, 2003. Accompanying this response is a petition for three months extension of time up to and including November 6, 2003.

Please amend the application as follows:

**In the Specification:**

Please amend the specification as shown in the section entitled Specification Amendments.

**In the Abstract:**

Please amend the abstract as shown in the section entitled Abstract Amendments.

**In the Claims:**

Please amend the claims and add new claims as shown in the section entitled Claim Amendments.

11/13/2003 HDEMESS1 00000016 09402185

02 FC:1201 172.00 OP  
03 FC:1202 18.00 OP

11/13/2003 HDEMESS1 00000016 09402185

01 FC:1253 950.00 OP